

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

47	Boston North	AT	
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Photograph



Town: Lexington

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: Utica Street

Present Use: residential

Construction Dates or Period: late 19th to early 20th c.

Overall Condition: fair to good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

Acreage: less than 10 acres

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): Jan. 2010

Topographic or Assessor's Map



— see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The wood-frame homes on Utica Street are set on small lots and include variations on workers cottages visible in the adjacent Woburn Street neighborhood (see Area F). All of the houses are modest, wood-frame dwellings with little or no decorative ornament. Two of the houses (6 and 10 Utica Street) are two stories high with 3 x 1-bay massings and oriented with their side gables to the street and their entrances in the center of the broad (south) elevation. The house at 10 Utica Street is the better preserved of the two but both have been added onto several times including a two-story section from the west end of the south façade. The house at 12 Utica Street has a similar form but is oriented with its broad side to the street. Located at the northeast corner of Woburn Street and Utica Street, 1 Utica Street is a 2 ½-story, 3 x 2-bay dwelling which is set on a mortared stone foundation. It retains its basic form as well as exterior finishes such as cornice returns (its front porch was recently removed). The house at 15 Utica Street is a 1 ½-story, side-gabled cottage with a high kneewall area above the first floor façade windows. It has seen several additions over the years.

Three of the houses, 11, 14 and 19 Utica Street, are 2 ½-story gablefront dwellings. The houses at 11 and 19 Utica Street have decorative shinglework in their front gables. Nearly all of the buildings on the street have seen alterations including siding and additions. Collectively, the streetscape still conveys its 19th century origins.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

Utica Street was laid out in the late 19th century, part of the working class Woburn Street neighborhood (see Area F – Woburn Street). Utica Street is not depicted on the 1875 map but probably took shape soon thereafter. It appears to have been laid out by the time of the 1889 map and is labeled on the 1898 map although there are only one or two houses, located on the east side of the street. By 1906 Utica Street was lined by approximately eight dwellings.

Most of the original residents of Utica Street were Irish immigrants or second generation immigrants. Irish immigrants had first moved to Lexington in the 1850s to work as laborers on farms and in other occupations. By 1875, the vast majority of the residents in the Woburn Street area were Irish. This trend continued for several decades.

In 1894 neighborhood residents included Bridget Kelleher, widow of Patrick, who lived at the corner of Woburn Street and Utica Street; John Devine, a sexton, who lived at 10 Utica; Thomas Harrison, a milk dealer; David Hennessey, a farmer, and Edward O'Connor of 11 Utica Street, a day laborer. Edward O'Connor was a long-term resident of Utica Street and owned two buildings. He had immigrated from Ireland about 1885. He and his wife Bridget had nine children and lived here into the 1940s.

In 1920 residents of Utica Street included Frank Hart, plumber (#2); Patrick Broderick, laborer at a nursery company (#6); Terrence McDonnell, production clerk at a pipe fitting business (#12); Patrick Cronin, caretaker at a private estate (#14); Andrew Palasky, a Hungarian cabinetmaker (#19); Thomas Leyland, auto mechanic (#15); Edward O'Connor, gardener at a private estate (#11) and Martin Casey, also a gardener (#9). Five of these heads of house were Irish or of Irish descent. Terrence McDonnell was married to a Portuguese woman and his household included a number of Portuguese in-laws. By the time of the 1930 Census, the number of Irish residents in the neighborhood had decreased even more.

Another trend which is evidenced in Utica Street's development is the tendency to relocate buildings here from other parts of town. This is evidenced in numerous buildings along Woburn Street and at least two in this neighborhood. The house at 9 Utica Street was moved from next to St. Brigid's Church in the late 19th or early 20th century. The house at the northwest corner of Woburn Street and Utica Street – 132 Woburn Street – was moved to its present site from east side of Massachusetts Avenue, near Marrett Road, between 1898 and 1906. (On Nov. 3, 1899 the *Minute-man* reported that Thomas McCarthy had moved the Ham House to Utica Street – it is not clear how this relates to the other two examples).

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Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2.
Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
Seasholes, Nancy. Area form for Woburn Street (Area F), April 1984.
Town Directories.
U.S. Census, various years.
1875, 1889, 1898, 1906 maps.

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Utica Street Neighborhood
Data Sheet

MHC #	Name	Address	Date	Comments
335	Cutler-Kenison-O'Connor House	132 Woburn Street	c.1860	Moved here betw. 1898 & 1906
	James McCarthy House	1 Utica Street	c.1880	
	McCarthy House	3-5 Utica Street	c.1880	
	Haley-Broderick House	6 Utica Street	c.1880 (by 1898)	
	Keefe-Rycroft House	9 Utica Street	c.1860	Moved here from Mass. Ave., near Marrett Road, before 1906
	Devine House	10 Utica Street	c.1880	
	Edward O'Connor House	11 Utica Street	c.1880 (by 1894)	
	O'Connell-Shannon House	12 Utica Street	c.1880	
	Albion-Cronin House	14 Utica Street	After 1906 (c.1910)	
	Edward O'Connor House	15 Utica Street	c.1880	
	Palasy House	19 Utica Street	After 1906 (c.1910)	

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19 Utica Street



14 Utica Street

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11 & 12 Utica Street



15 & 11 Utica Street

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3-5 Utica Street



9 Utica Street

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1 Utica Street



132 Woburn Street